

THE WRANGELL SENTINEL

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WRANGELL, ALASKA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1916

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Fire Destroys Home Of Chas. Bryant

Friday morning---A fire completely destroyed the home of Councilman Chas. Bryant at 2 A. M. this morning. The fire caught from a defective stove pipe is the belief of Mr. Bryant. The house was situated near the head of the bay.

Mr. Bryant was up town late last night and on returning home he started a fire and after getting a bite to eat he went to bed and woke up a half hour later to see that the ceiling was ablaze. He gave the alarm and getting help succeeded in getting all his personal effects out, the only things lost were a few tools and small effects which were stored upstairs. The big boat shop along side of the building was saved. The loss is estimated by Mr. Bryant at between two and three hundred dollars, and states that he will build a new house on the site as soon as the weather will permit.

The Ketchikan Progressive Miner says that out at Kasaan bay the run of king salmon still continues.

The municipal authorities at Nome have undertaken to check the tendency of men using profane language on the street.

E. A. Richmond New Manager Of The Rink

A lease was signed today between Win. Lewis and E. A. Richmond whereby the latter takes over the Rink and becomes the new proprietor of this popular place of amusement. Mr. Richmond's plans for the future are not as yet completed, but certain changes are to be made to confirm with the new program, and the people of Wrangell may rest assured that the same high class pictures and other forms of amusement that has made this place so popular will be maintained.

No Trace Of Missing Watchman

Though several parties are out on the search for Peter Overase, the missing watchman from the Canoe Pass cannery, no trace of him can be found. There is a report here that a special party from the Marshals office has been detailed on the case and is investigating. Mr. Overase has many friends here and it is hoped that he can be found alive.

German Forces Are Meeting Heavy Losses

Washington, Jan. 6---According to wire the Russians are succeeding the Germans in Galicia. The Germans suffered enormous losses. A great battle is in progress in the Carnia Alps. The Italian forces have forced the Austrian army back and captured over a mile of their trenches. The losses on both sides are severe.

Big Storm Is Raging At Juneau

Juneau Jan. 6th---A great Take wind is plowing here today. All Juneau shipping is delayed. Many windows from the big stores downtown have been blown in. The storm is still raging tonight.

A Correction

Among the star performers in the Christmas program at the St. Philips Church, whose names were omitted from the catalogue of those who did so well, was young James Watters. We are glad to make this correction.

Many Ships Sunk In The Mediterranean

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3---Four large ships, three of them British, have been torpedoed and sunk in Southern waters, with heavy loss of life, and apparently without warning by the Teutonic submarines accused of causing their destruction. It is admitted at Washington that the administration faces the most critical international situation since the European war broke out.

News that the British steamship Persia had been sunk without warning off the island of Crete, Mediterranean Sea, with the loss of 300 lives, reached Washington Sunday, in a consular dispatch, which says that at least one American, Robert N. McNeely, United States consul at Aden, Arabia, probably lost his life. McNeely was on his way to his station, and is reported to be among those missing from the Persia. The vessel is said to have been torpedoed Friday. The Persia was an 8,000 ton ship.

London today reported the loss in the same manner, of the British liner Glengyle, and the British steamship Stoewald, while a dispatch which reached London from Cairo confirmed reports that the Japanese liner Kenkoku Maru had been torpedoed and sunk by an Austrian submarine.

Washington, Jan. 4---According to advices received two more passengers liners have been sunk by submarines in the Mediterranean Sea. A French vessel and an Italian liner. Many lives were lost. The situation is viewed as very critical.

Washington, Jan. 6th---President Wilson stated last night that he would see that the countries who are responsible for the loss of life in the Mediterranean Sea are brought to justice.

New Game Warden Is Appointed

Governor Strong has appointed Charles Nickett of Ketchikan, as a game warden for this section. Nickett is to succeed Julius Sternberg who has resigned on account of ill health. His appointment took effect yesterday.

New Paper Weekly Alaskan At Anchorage

The Weekly Alaskan, is a new publication at Anchorage, Alaska, that has reached our exchange desk. Hazel Hunter is owner and R. R. Hunter, editor and manager of the paper. The paper, while owing to misfortune in their shipment of newspaper, is printed on wrapping paper, it is a very creditable one and we wish it all success.

Work Under Way At Groundhog Basin

Work is again in progress at the Groundhog Basin property, C. L. Leeds, Bert McKay and Commander Jackson, who came in from there to spend Christmas, left last Saturday for the property and will rush the work driving in the tunnel until the big ore body is opened. They are confident that they will strike the ore body in a few days. Manager Galvin, of the company, will be up shortly to take active charge of the work and start trails up to the property.

Fire Boys Will Give Big Ball

February the 22nd is the Annual Firemens Ball. The boys are arranging for a big time for all. Oscar Carlson, Ole Johnson and Leo McCormack were elected at the last meeting to arrange the big event so the success of the ball is assured.

The theme for the sermon at St. Philips Church next Sunday evening will be "Getting Wise". You are welcome.

Cut Out Thru Ice To Get Food

Ase Hollenbeck and Roy Murphy arrived in from the logging camp of Jimmie Green's last Tuesday. The logging camp is situated at the head of Burnett Inlet and to get out the men were forced to cut a channel for the gasboat through ice three inches thick, it taking them two days to get out of the Inlet. They report good progress at the camp as they have a hundred thousand feet of logs in the water now and two hundred thousand fell in the woods ready to be taken to the water. They will leave again for the camp as they were running out of grub hence the trip to town.

St. Philips Entertainment Is Postponed

The entertainment which was advertised for tonight at the St. Philips gymnasium has been postponed for one week. The entertainment will be given next week and promises to be very good. After the exercises, refreshments and candy will be placed on sale and a general good time will be had. Everyone is cordially invited.



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WRANGELL - ALASKA

THE WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Interesting Letter On Statehood For Alaska

Kern Creek, Mile 71, Alaska.
December 18-1915.

My Dear Sir:-

Knowing your loyalty to our Territorial interests to be beyond question, your judgement wise and unselfish, and your influence correspondingly helpful, I am writing you with a view to ascertaining your individual opinion touching the admission of Alaska to statehood; and, so far as you have observed, the general sentiment of our fellow citizens in your section of the Territory with reference to that issue. Also, of course, any opinions or suggestions you may care to advance in respect of the other matters and things touched upon in this letter will be highly valued. There appear to be many good and sufficient reasons for believing that the time is at hand when the agitation for statehood should be intelligently and comprehensively begun and systematically continued; the chief reason for which, it seems to me, is that to further delay the matter will correspondingly delay the acquisition of material, political, and social benefits which statehood would bring; and which it is idle to suppose or hope we will ever enjoy until statehood is attained.

We all realize, of course, that a very considerable period of time will certainly elapse before we can secure the passage of an enabling Act even after all are convinced and admit that we possess every necessary qualification for statehood. Then, yet more time must pass before we could expect to agree upon a provisional constitution acceptable to Congress. In other words, to become a state at all we ourselves must take the initiative, and under the most favorable conditions statehood cannot be attained until long after we deserve it.

Furthermore, if the agitation be not soon commenced, and maintained with vigor, it is inevitable that a Development Board, administrative Commission, or some similar contrivance will be foisted upon us; the adoption of which will most assuredly tighten the claws of bureaucratic government upon our people and thus postpone self-government indefinitely. Indeed, it seems to me, this is the most pressing danger of the moment; and expediency would suggest that we continue a little to bear the ills we have, intolerable as they are, rather than fly to others we know not of. I feel entirely confident that the American people, our brothers, our kindred, our friends, will not long deny us the rights of freedom; but, should we sit still now, and combolacently submit to some new, untried experimental device being yoked upon us, you may be sure that the people of the Republic will require of us that we give it what its sponsors will speciously designate a fair trial.

This would mean simply a continuance for an indefinite number of years under a new name and form, but in the main under the same men—of the administrative inefficiency, industrial stagnation, and political dependency for which we now suffer and have suffered until our hearts are sick. The odor of a skunk is not improved by changing its name; and, we may be sure, no governmental makeshift will materially improve our interests until the agents who govern us are answerable directly to us. For my part I refuse to be deceived into accepting any other solution of our problem.

Now, to give effective impetus to statehood agitation it has occurred to me that a convention of representative citizens favorable to the

idea could be arranged and a permanent organization be effected under some such name as Alaska Statehood League, or other designation indicative of its object and purpose, and provision be made for securing the cooperation of all Alaskans in sympathy therewith. If you favor this idea please indicate your preference as to time and place and, if your name may be signed to a call for such convention,

When I shall have received your answer, and the answers of a substantial number of the other influential citizens throughout the Territory to whom I am sending a similar letter, I shall mail you a detailed summary of the responses and, also, a copy of a thesis in behalf of statehood which I am preparing, and which, in addition to its main purpose, will attempt in a modest way to anticipate and answer such adverse arguments as may be presented.

Thanking you for such consideration as you may give this communication, I remain, with assurances of the highest esteem.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas B. Drayton.

THE TRACKLESS TROLLEY.

Advantages It Possesses Over Other Means of Transportation.

Railless electric traction has attracted much attention in England lately. Several short transportation lines have been built on that principle, and some thirty similar schemes are now under consideration in various semi-rural regions. The "trackless trolley" used at Leeds and Bradford consists of a "bus" similar to the ordinary gasoline stage, except that its motive power is electricity obtained through a trolley from an overhead wire. It is said to be much cheaper to operate than a gasoline bus and where traffic is light has, of course, a similar advantage over the regular train running on tracks because of lower first cost, the entire expense of a special roadbed being eliminated.

The cost of putting up the trolley wires at Leeds was but \$6,220 per mile. The forty horsepower buses cost \$3,500, and it has been found by experience that the complete cost of operation per mile varies from 11 to 13 cents. In Leeds the fare is 4 cents for a four-mile journey.

R. E. Neale, who describes the Leeds and Bradford installations in the Engineering Magazine, says that the trackless trolley can make money even where the traffic is thin at a fare of from 1 to 1½ cents per mile. Apparently the trolley bus cannot compete with the tram where traffic is heavy, but it has, according to Mr. Neale, a distinct field of its own in suburban regions and at resorts where heavy demands at one season are followed by no passengers at all during the remainder of the year. Mr. Neale's figures indicate that it is cheaper to operate than the gasoline stage by from one-half a cent to a cent per passenger mile.

USES OF FLUORSPAR.

Employed in Glassmaking and For Open Hearth Steel.

Last year the total quantity of domestic fluor spar reported to the United States geological survey as marketed in the United States was 87,048 short tons, valued at \$11,447, compared with 69,427 short tons, valued at \$430,106, in 1910, an increase in quantity of 17,621 short tons and in value of \$181,251.

Fluor spar is found in crystals, generally cubical, in color ranging from a clear, slightly bluish or green glass like tint through various other brilliant colors to dark purple, although much of it is white and opaque. Associated with other minerals, fluor spar has a broad distribution, but deposits of workable size are not abundant. The deposits thus far exploited in the United States being found only in the state of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and New Hampshire.

Fluor spar is used in the manufacture of glass and of enameled and sanitary ware, the electrolytic refining of antimony and lead, the production of aluminum and in the iron and steel industries, where it is used as a flux in blast furnaces and in gas open hearth steel furnaces. It is estimated that about 80 per cent of the American fluor spar output, mainly in the form of gravel spar, is consumed in the manufacture of basic open hearth steel. The use of fluor spar is increasing in practically all these industries.

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